

Chapter 28

"It's just an opinion," her smile falls. "I didn't mean to offend you."

"No," I shake my head. "You didn't."

"Still, I apologise. I forget it's not what it is for me to everyone else. It's pure to you, and I shouldn't speak ill of it, but there's one thing I can say."

"What?" I lean in closer.

"You have a grumpy asshole for an Alpha," she whispers.

I can't help but laugh, "Alpha Kingston isn't grumpy. He's so much calmer and patient than Alpha Dante."

Aeliana swallows, "Not with me."

"He's been nice since we met, but he was always just..."

"Wrong?"

"Not exactly," I pause, searching for the right words. Alpha Kingston was just as distant as she was when we first met. He always had this broken look in his eyes, he often appeared to be searching for something out of touch. But when did he begun receiving letters from Audrey? "But in a way, and when I asked, Rowan says it's because of you, so I was curious to meet you one day. They said it would never happen but look, I'm having lunch with you."

"Interesting," She nods, like it's news to her.

I smile, "Can I ask why or how you changed him? I've heard—"



"It's true," she scoffs. "All of it."

"But I haven't told you what is that I heard."

"I know it's true. I don't need to hear or confirm it." She swallow, "Thanks for lunch, Danielle. I have to go."

"Did I say something wrong?" I pause, watching her closely.

"No, you've been good company." She says, offering me a small smile. I fear I may have ruined my chances of being friends with her. She can't wait to escape me. I was hoping we could get along since we have a long life together, just like our husbands.

"I'll come with you," I offer. "I'm done eating too."

"That won't be necessary," she politely declines. "I'll have to visit my parents and then head home."

"Oh. See you then."

AELIANA

I lied to Danielle.

I couldn't sit there anymore, I was starting to get a headache. That and the attempt to ruin my clothes was a setback I couldn't sit through despite having moved past it already.

While waiting for my ride outside, I caught wind of what people think of me and my marriage to Kingston. No one dared say anything to my ace but they smiled and continued pointing, shaming..

I wonder when the rumours will stop. It's like everywhere I go, I get dirty looks, hushed whispers, loud whispers all because I mated Kingston.



Not even in the packhouse do I find peace, the staff have learned to turn the other way when they see me approaching but it doesn't change the way they gossip about me. Yesterday, I heard one of them call me spoiled because I didn't want to eat lunch.

I'm going upstairs when a sharp pain pierces my chest, throwing me off balance. My wolf purrs in the back of my mind. "Ugh," I scream, another wave hitting me every four seconds apart. This time, I fall, hanging on to the railing as I scream once again. "Lumi, what is that?"

"What?" She retorts, the pain in her voice deeper than what I feel.

"That," I whimper, clutching my stomach again. "It fucking hurts."

Lumi hums, "I can't tell you."

"Why? What's happening to us?" I choke, trying to get up but the pain is too much to bear, I felt this a few days ago, the night of my wedding but it was merely a dull pain. It felt like a cramp but this? Fuck, I can't breathe, tears burn in the corner of my eyes. "Lumi, tell me," I demand.

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